

Message Text

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

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CINCLANT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 255401

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE: US TEXT ON PRIORITIES

REF: USNATO 6309

1. TAKING YOUR VIEWS INTO CONSIDERATION, WE SUGGEST
REVISED TEXT OF SUBPARAGRAPH B OF PARAGRAPH 39 OF US DRAFT
MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE AS FOLLOWS:

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BEGIN TEXT. B. GENERAL CONCEPT. THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE PRIORITIES SET FORTH IN PREVIOUS MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE AND IN THE COURSE OF THE AD-70 EXERCISE SHOULD BE RETAINED, NAMELY, THAT COMBAT FORCES, AND ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH CAN BE BROUGHT TO BEAR RAPIDLY IN ANY SCENARIO, ARE MORE PERCEPTIBLE AS A DETERRENT THAN SUPPORT FORCES WHICH DO NOT NORMALLY PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN COMBAT ACTION. GIVEN THE RANGE OF CHALLENGING SCENARIOS THAT HAVE BEEN POSTULATED TO GUIDE NATO FORCE PLANNING, COMBAT FORCES INCLUDE NOT ONLY HIGHLY READY, IN-PLACE FORCES, BUT ALSO THOSE MOBILIZABLE AND REINFORCING FORCES WHICH CAN BE BROUGHT QUICKLY TO THE COMBAT ZONE. WHILE HIGHLY READY, IN-PLACE COMBAT FORCES SHOULD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THEIR SHARE OF RESOURCE EMPHASIS, MOBILIZABLE AND REINFORCING FORCES SHOULD RECEIVE MORE EMPHASIS THAN THEY HAVE HERETOFORE. FURTHERMORE, RESOURCES SHOULD NOT BE SHIFTED AWAY FROM CRITICAL MAINTENANCE CAPABILITIES AND THE PROVISION OF

SUFFICIENT STOCKS TO ASSURE THAT THERE NEED NOT BE AN EARLY RECOURSE TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN DIRECT DEFENSE ON ACCOUNT OF LOGISTIC WEAKNESS. END TEXT.

COMMENT

2. WE DO NOT WISH TO GET INTO DISCUSSION OF SUSTAINING COMBAT FORCES, WHICH CONSIST MAINLY OF THOSE CONUS FORCES NOT SPECIFICALLY EARMARKED TO NATO COMMAND; THE US IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FOR THESE FORCES APPROPRIATELY, WHATEVER STATEMENTS ARE MADE IN THE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. NOR DO WE WISH TO IDENTIFY THE PRIORITY FORCES AS THOSE AVAILABLE IN A SPECIFIC TIME FRAME, SUCH AS M-DAY TO M PLUS 30. SPECIFYING DAYS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF EITHER NATO OR PACT FORCES IS LIKELY TO BE MISLEADING, GIVEN THE DIFFERENT BASES ON WHICH THESE QTE CALCULATIONS UNQTE ARE PRESENTLY MADE. MESSAGE FOR GIVING PRIORITY TO COMBAT OVER SUPPORT FORCES IS MOSTLY FOR US, RATHER THAN ALLIES, WHO ARE ALREADY LEAN IN SUPPORT FORCES. WE BELIEVE ALLIES SHOULD KEEP THEIR PRESENT FORCE LEVELS, INCLUDING MOBILIZABLE UNITS, PROVIDED THAT THEY ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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APPROPRIATELY EQUIPPED TO COMBAT THE PACT ARMORED THREAT AND HAVE AN EFFICIENT AND TESTED MOBILIZATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM WHICH ALLOWS THEM TO BE CALLED UP RAPIDLY AND FIGHT AS EARLY AS NECESSARY.

3. AS A COMMENT ON STOCK LEVELS AND SCENARIOS, WE BASE DETERRENCE IN THE CENTRAL REGION ON DETERRING THE ATTACK OF VARIOUS LEVELS OF PACT FORCES (E.G., 30, 58, 89

DIVISIONS) AFTER VARIOUS LENGTHS OF PREPARATION (WHICH RUN FROM VERY LITTLE TO THREE WEEKS OR MORE). WE ASSOCIATE CERTAIN PACT STOCKS WITH THESE ATTACK LEVELS OF PACT FORCES: STOCKS IN DIVISION LIFT, STOCKS IN EASTERN EUROPE, AND STOCKS IN THE WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICTS OF THE USSR. OF COURSE, THE SOVIETS COULD DRAW ON STOCKS FROM ALL OVER THE USSR, AS WELL AS ON DIVISIONS FROM ALL OVER THE USSR. WE DO NOT PROPOSE THAT NATO MATCH THE TOTAL WP HOLDINGS. WE PROPOSE RATHER THAT NATO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE WP LOGISTIC CAPABILITY DEVELOPED UNDER THE SCENARIOS POSTULATED FOR NATO PLANNING, TAKING ACCOUNT OF STOCKS IN WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICTS OF USSR AND FORWARD THEREOF.

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